

BOARD OF TRUST ADDRESS

Members of the Board of Trust, Chancellor Zeppos, Vice-Chancellors, other distinguished Vanderbilt University Administration and honored guests; my name is Cliff Wilson and I am the 2007/2008 President of the University Staff Advisory Council. I am thankful and humbled to have been given the opportunity to address you on behalf of University Staff Council and my constituents; the staff of Vanderbilt University.

This past year has been an unforgettable one. For me personally, this last year has given me the opportunity to learn the value and virtue of patience, to build self-confidence while in a more public role, to support my fellow staff during times of trial, to congratulate amazing professionals on jobs-well-done and to have the chance to spread the good word about volunteerism and Vanderbilt!

As a Council, it has been a roller-coaster ride of events and opportunities, a time for us to reflect and to give of ourselves. During this past year, we have witnessed a Chancellor leaving ... we watched the search for our next leader, and welcomed a new Chancellor ... beginning his time in our Vanderbilt history. The Council hopes that over this last year we, as a group and as individuals, added value through our support and participation in this process.

So many of these committed individuals dared to make a difference in the process of USAC. By sharing their diverse views in the form of lively input and debate, by participating in our newly formed committee structure ... of which a direct result was a formal recommendation regarding Bereavement Benefits for staff, by ramping up our involvement with the University by increasing the number of staff participating in events such as Faculty-Staff Campaign, Tailgate Saturday, The Party and Commencement and finally, by increasing the number of Council members and staff, in general, who contribute to the Nashville community through volunteerism with events such as the Red Cross Blood Drive, the American Heart Walk and Habitat for Humanity and so much more.

All this to say, is that it is about the people of Vanderbilt; the faculty, students and staff. Each group is an important spoke in the wheel ... from the person who oversees a multi-million dollar grant, to the individual who cuts the millions of blades of grass at the Commons ... each man and woman adds value ... each one, in their own way, is trying to effect positive change. These folks ... all concerned, all caring,

brilliant, passionate individuals ... this is what makes up the fabric of the place we work ... it is these folks who define the story of the university ... this is the exceptional mix of talented, caring folks who make up this place called Vanderbilt. I believe that our greatest asset lies in the people of the University. And we, the staff, thank each of you for your contributions to the University, to the community and for taking such good care in protecting our human capital; the faculty, students and staff. We appreciate the difference that each of you make by being such amazing stewards of Vanderbilt University!
